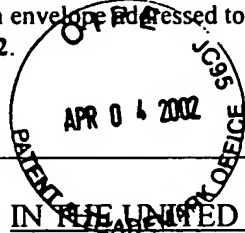



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
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	 Grace Alicea

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

COPY OF PAPERS
ORIGINALLY FILED

In Re Application of:

Date: March 22, 2002

NGUYEN, et al.

Serial No.: 10/072,390

Group Art Unit: 2673

Filed: Feb. 5, 2002

Examiner: *to be assigned*

For: REMOTE CONTROL DEVICE FOR USE WITH A PERSONAL COMPUTER (PC) AND MULTIPLE A/V DEVICES AND METHOD OF USE

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attention: Group Director, Group 2673

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APR 23 2002

Technology Center 2600

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL FOR NEW APPLICATION
UNDER M.P.E.P. § 708.02, VIII**

Sir:

1. Petition

Applicant hereby petitions to make this new application, which has not received any examination by the Examiner, special.

2. Claims

All the claims in this case are directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, then Applicant will

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make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status. If claims 1-4 and 12-18 are found not to be examinable in this case with claims 5-11 and 19, then Applicant hereby elects claims 5-11 and 19 for the prosecution of this case.

3. Search

A search as been made by a professional searcher. The field of search included class 345 (subclasses 156, 168, 169 and 719); class 709 (subclasses 217, 229 and 250); class 348 (subclasses 552 and 734); and class 340 (subclass 825).

4. Copy of References

There is submitted herewith a copy of the references deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims.

5. Detailed Discussion of the References

There is submitted herewith a detailed discussion of the references, which discussion particularly points out how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

The present invention recites aspects for remotely controlling audio/visual (A/V) devices with a personal computer (PC). In the recited invention, independent method claim 1, independent computer readable medium claim 14, independent method claim 18, and independent computer readable medium claim 20 each include the step of mapping each button on a remote control device to predetermined key codes and translating data signals from a selected button to device functions via the PC based on the key codes to control operations of a

plurality of A/V devices coupled to the PC. System claims are recited in independent claim 5, independent claim 19, and independent claim 21. In independent claim 5, connection hardware coupled to a PC is recited, while in system claims 19 and 21, a tuner box coupled to a graphics board within the PC is recited. Each of claims 5, 19, and 21 further recite a remote control device with selectable buttons for transmitting data signals wirelessly to the connection hardware or the tuner box to access control of the plurality of A/V devices. Independent method claim 13 (amended to independent form in the preliminary amendment filed herewith) recites providing a data signal based upon activating at least one of the plurality of buttons from the remote control, the at least one button for controlling one of the plurality of A/V devices and translating the data signal to control one of the plurality of A/V devices by providing one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references teach, show, or suggest the aspects of the present invention as recited by these claims. Applicant provides a discussion of the references and describes with particularity how the present invention is distinguished over each of the references.

Summary of References

1. United States Patent 6,255,961; Van Ryzin, et al.

Two-way communications between a remote control unit and one or more devices in an audio/visual environment

Van Ryzin discloses a remote control unit in an audio/visual system that has a two-way communications link with one or more audio/visual devices. The bi-directional flow of information between the remote control unit and the audio/visual device(s) provides for the creation of remote control commands that are customized based upon the characteristics of the particular A/V device being controlled by the remote control unit. The remote control unit may

additionally have another two-way communications link with one or more information-providing devices, such as a personal computer capable of accessing the Internet, that can provide the remote control unit with information available outside the audio/visual environment. The bi-directional flow of information of the two-way communications links is accomplished with a two-way infra-red link or a two-way serial link.

VanRyzin is concerned with two-way communication between a remote control and A/V devices and may have a separate two-way communication link between the remote control and a PC. In the disclosure of Van Ryzin, the A/V devices are not coupled to the PC. Further, each A/V device requires software in order to implement commands received from the remote control (see col. 3, line 67-col. 4, line 2). Thus, there is nothing in Van Ryzin to teach or suggest translating data signals from a selected button to device functions via the PC to control operations of a plurality of A/V devices coupled to the PC, since there is no coupling of the A/V device to the PC as recited in the claims. Further, since there is nothing to teach or suggest a plurality of A/V devices coupled to the PC, there can be no teaching or suggestion of connection hardware/tuner box coupled to the PC and receiving data signals wirelessly from a remote control device to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

**2. United States Patent 6,208,384; Schultheiss
Methods and systems for providing information to a television
using a personal computer**

Schultheiss discloses a personal computer used to download and process auxiliary services which are intended for a television. Accordingly, information is provided to a television

using a personal computer, so that the personal computer's processing power and memory may be used rather than stand-alone devices or a television memory. An external network interface is provided in the computer, as well as a low power television transmitter or transceiver. A unified television/personal computer remote control provides personal computer commands to the personal computer via radio frequency signals. Television commands may be provided to the television directly using infrared signals or indirectly through the personal computer using radio frequency signals. When television commands are provided using radio frequency signals, an infrared converter is provided for the television, to convert the radio frequency signals to infrared signals.

Schultheiss describes use of a PC to provide information to a TV. The information is provided to the TV via a wireless connection to the PC. A remote control device is also illustrated for communicating with the PC and/or TV. There is nothing to teach or suggest a plurality of A/V devices, since Schultheiss merely discusses interactions with a TV. Further, the remote control can interact directly with the TV (see signal line 72, Fig. 1), which contradicts the translation of data signals from a selected button to device functions via the PC to control operations of a plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. In addition, there is nothing to teach or suggest connection hardware or a tuner box, and thus, there is nothing to teach or suggest the transmission of data signals wirelessly from the remote control to the connection hardware/tuner box to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

**3. United States Patent 6,205,318; Schindler, et al.
Power management controller for computer system**

Schindler discloses an entertainment system that has a personal computer as the heart of the system with a large screen VGA quality monitor as the display of choice. The system has digital satellite broadcast reception, decompression and display capability with multiple radio frequency remote control devices which transmit self identifying signals and have power adjustment capabilities. These capabilities are used to provide context sensitive groups of keys which may be defined to affect only selected applications running in a windowing environment. In addition, the remote control devices combine television and VCR controls with standard personal computer keyboard controls. An applet running on the personal computer receives power commands from the remote control devices and issues power mode commands to video and audio cards to emulate on/off functions of standard televisions. A keyboard remote also integrates a touchpad which is food contamination resistant and may also be used for user verification. Included in the system is the ability to recognize verbal communications in video signals and maintain a database of such text which is searchable to help identify desired programming in real time.

Applicant respectfully submits that Schindler includes a discussion of various features of a multipurpose computer system that is provided with circuitry to control consumer electronics. While multiple A/V devices are represented as being coupled to a PC, there is no teaching or suggestion of connection hardware/tuner box receiving data signals from a remote control device to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Further, while the reference does discuss remote control devices in the form of a keyboard and a handheld device, the utilization of the remote controls with application programs in the PC does not teach or

suggest button mapping to predetermined key codes as recited in the claims. Rather, since there are multiple remotes, a predetermined association of remote device(s) with each application programs in the PC is required in order to have control mechanism(s) of the remote device(s) function with the application. Applicant respectfully submits that this need to associate remote devices in these references fails to teach or suggest mapping of each button on a remote control device to predetermined key codes that are the basis for data signal translation to device functions to control operations of a plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

**4. United States Patent 6,111,569; Brusky, et al.
Computer-based universal remote control system**

Brusky discloses a programmable remote control implemented using a standard personal computer. The computer controls the output of, for example, an infrared transmitter to control various devices such as televisions, stereos, videocassette recorders or cd players. The computer can alter the type of commands issued from the transmitter based upon a command structure stored on a hard disk within the computer. This database is updatable from a variety of sources.

Brusky describes a computer-based system for the remote control of a separate electronic device to produce a universal remote control device. The reference discloses the use of the hard drive of the computer system to store a database that can be updated as needed to accommodate new types of devices or new model types, which would avoid the storage and update limitation of prior art universal remote control devices. There is nothing to teach or suggest a plurality of A/V devices coupled to the PC as recited in the claims. Rather, Brusky mentions merely that

commands can be sent via an infrared transmitter in the PC to devices other than the illustrated TV. Further, there is nothing to teach or suggest connection hardware/tuner box. Thus, there is nothing to teach or suggest the transmission of data signals from the remote control to the connection hardware/tuner box to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

**5. United States Patent 5,995,155; Schindler, et al.
Database navigation system for a home entertainment system**

Schindler discloses an entertainment system that has a personal computer as the heart of the system with a large screen VGA quality monitor as the display of choice. The system has digital satellite broadcast reception, decompression and display capability with multiple radio frequency remote control devices which transmit self identifying signals and have power adjustment capabilities. These capabilities are used to provide context sensitive groups of keys which may be defined to affect only selected applications running in a windowing environment. In addition, the remote control devices combine television and VCR controls with standard personal computer keyboard controls. A keyboard remote also integrates a touchpad which is food contamination resistant and may also be used for user verification. Included in the system is the ability to recognize verbal communications in video signals and maintain a database of such text which is searchable to help identify desired programming in real time.

Applicant respectfully submits that Schindler includes a discussion of various features of a multipurpose computer system that is provided with circuitry to control consumer electronics. While multiple A/V devices are represented as being coupled to a PC, there is no teaching or

suggestion of connection hardware/tuner box receiving data signals from a remote control device to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Further, while the reference does discuss remote control devices in the form of a keyboard and a handheld device, the utilization of the remote controls with application programs in the PC does not teach or suggest button mapping to predetermined key codes as recited in the claims. Rather, since there are multiple remotes, a predetermined association of remote device(s) with each application programs in the PC is required in order to have control mechanism(s) of the remote device(s) function with the application. Applicant respectfully submits that this need to associate remote devices in these references fails to teach or suggest mapping of each button on a remote control device to predetermined key codes that are the basis for data signal translation to device functions to control operations of a plurality of A/V devices. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

6. United States Patent 5,920,308; Kim

**Keyboard with a wireless remote control receiver and
a method of redefining a key function for remote control**

Kim discloses a keyboard for a personal computer system that has a remote control function. The personal computer system has a keyboard unit for communicating with a main computer unit by using signal lines connected therebetween and generating a re-send signal when a communication request signal for remote control is provided from the main computer unit. A communication control section controls a communication of the keyboard unit with the main computer unit in response to the control signal, so as to allow the remote control receiver to

receive information for redefining of a key function for the remote control. The keyboard can redefine a key function for remote control in accordance with several sorts of programs.

Kim discloses a keyboard for a PC that has a remote control function and the reprogramming of keys on the keyboard via key maps. There is nothing to teach or suggest a plurality of A/V devices coupled to a PC as recited in the claims. Further, there is nothing to teach or suggest a connection hardware/tuner box as recited in the claims. Thus, there is nothing to teach or suggest the transmission of data signals wirelessly from the remote control to the connection hardware/tuner box to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

**7. United States Patent 5,650,831; Farwell
Adjustable power remote control drive**

Farwell discloses an entertainment system that has a personal computer as the heart of the system with a large screen VGA quality monitor as the display of choice. The system has digital satellite broadcast reception, decompression and display capability with multiple radio frequency remote control devices which transmit self identifying signals and have power adjustment capabilities. These capabilities are used to provide context sensitive groups of keys which may be defined to affect only selected applications running in a windowing environment. In addition, the remote control devices combine television and VCR controls with standard personal computer keyboard controls. A keyboard remote also integrates a touchpad which is food contamination resistant and may also be used for user verification. Included in the system is the ability to

recognize verbal communications in video signals and maintain a database of such text which is searchable to help identify desired programming in real time.

Applicant respectfully submits that Schindler includes a discussion of various features of a multipurpose computer system that is provided with circuitry to control consumer electronics. While multiple A/V devices are represented as being coupled to a PC, there is no teaching or suggestion of connection hardware/tuner box receiving data signals from a remote control device to access control of the plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Further, while the reference does discuss remote control devices in the form of a keyboard and a handheld device, the utilization of the remote controls with application programs in the PC does not teach or suggest button mapping to predetermined key codes as recited in the claims. Rather, since there are multiple remotes, a predetermined association of remote device(s) with each application programs in the PC is required in order to have control mechanism(s) of the remote device(s) function with the application. Applicant respectfully submits that this need to associate remote devices in these references fails to teach or suggest mapping of each button on a remote control device to predetermined key codes that are the basis for data signal translation to device functions to control operations of a plurality of A/V devices. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

**8. United States Patent 5,283,819; Glick, et al.
Computing and multimedia entertainment system**

Glick discloses a remotely controllable computing and multimedia entertainment system that includes a personal computer having an entertainment circuit made up of a radio frequency

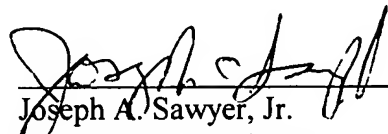
circuit, a television circuit, and an audio multimedia circuit. A remote control circuit provides programmable control of the entertainment circuit to select among computer function operation, television and radio operation, and audio operation. An analog mixing circuit within the audio multimedia circuit provides mixing for a plurality of analog audio signals. A telephone circuit (44) integrates data, fax, and voice telephone signals in the entertainment circuit. A volume control circuit within the audio multimedia circuit provides varying volume, bass, and tone levels for each audio signal received by the analog mixing circuit. The analog audio signals received by analog mixing circuit may include monaural and stereo audio signals.

Glick discloses a PC-based multimedia center. The remote control device in Glick operates with the PC via a remote control circuit in the PC. The remote control circuit utilizes an 8-bit processor that monitors an infrared detector for unique coded values that control operations of a host interface to the host processor and causes interrupts in the host processor for servicing. Glick neither teaches or suggests mapping each button on a remote control device to predetermined key codes and translating data signals from a selected button to device functions based on the key codes to control operations of a plurality of A/V devices as recited in the claims. Further, there is nothing to teach or suggest connection hardware/tuner box for receiving the data signals from the remote control device as recited in the claims. Additionally, there is nothing to teach or suggest the provision of one of a plurality of CD/DVD and TV/DVR functions in data signal translation as recited in the claims.

6. Fee

Attached is a check in the amount of \$130.00. Please charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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